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Contact:

Melissa Vangsness, Director of Communications
Phone: [320-589-6414](tel:320-589-6414), melissav@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer

Phone: [320-589-6068](tel:320-589-6068), jrray@morris.umn.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Coria '18 and Palmer '17 Receive 2016 Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity Awards](#)

The award acknowledges diverse students doing outstanding work across the University of Minnesota.

MORRIS, Minnesota (October 31, 2016)—Two University of Minnesota, Morris students have received the 2016 Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) Award: Amy Coria '18, Chicago, Illinois, and Nicole Palmer '17, New Ulm. Sponsored by the Office for Equity and Diversity (OED), the systemwide award honors and acknowledges diverse students doing outstanding work across the University of Minnesota, both in and out of the classroom.

Coria is pursuing an elementary education major and license with a Spanish endorsement. She has been active in organizations that promote multicultural diversity and understanding on campus, including Voces Unidas and Black Student Union. She also has worked on issues affecting public education at the local, state, and national levels through the Education Minnesota Student Program, the National Education Association (NEA), and the NEA Hispanic Caucus. After graduation, Coria hopes to make a difference in her community as a bilingual teacher in an inner-city public school.

“No matter how small our actions may seem, people do notice them and appreciate our hard work,” says Coria.

Palmer, who also received the President’s SEED Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, has addressed disability needs on campus as a Disability Resource Center Link Program mentor and American Sign Language tutor. She also was selected to serve on a Technology, Access, and Instruction Task Force to assess barriers to providing education for all students, particularly those living with disabilities. Majoring in psychology and human services (with an area of concentration in disability issues and advocacy), Palmer intends to go to graduate school and ultimately to run a nonprofit.

“My commitment to equity and access for disability issues and community engagement runs deep,” says Palmer. “I understand my responsibility to use what I have learned in my disability advocacy work to be an ally and advocate for other people who might be on the margins of society.”

Coria and Palmer will receive their awards at the ninth annual Equity and Diversity Breakfast on Thursday, November 17, where Palmer will be the student speaker. The Breakfast brings together the University community and external stakeholders to recognize the students, faculty, and staff doing the work of, and to reaffirm the University’s commitment to, equity and diversity.

The mission of the OED is to leverage the transformative power of equity and diversity to advance excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement at the University of Minnesota. Additional information is available at diversity.umn.edu.

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